

PATENT
Serial No. 10/522,300
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of November 15, 2006.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 15, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 13 contains allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 13, which has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 should be allowable. In additions, claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14-20 should be allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 9.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

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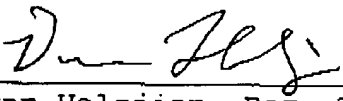
argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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